

USS TELFAIR APA-210 -- 2018 REUNION REPORT

"It was the best of times, it was the worst of times,..." (from Tale of Two Cities)

Best of times -- although we had a smaller group than wished for, all those who did attend in Albuquerque had a great time. The Albuquerque area was great, weather was great, hotel hospitality facilities were great -- only wish there were more of us there to enjoy it all.

Following a few unavoidable last minute cancellations for medical reasons, just 22 crew mates and family were in final attendance.

Joe & Donna Alberto
Bill and Barbara Bunger
Art & Shelly Halpin, with daughter and son-in-law Patty & Tom Minter
Jim & Shirley Harvey
Jose & Sherry Rivera
Jim & Susie Rosenow
Mike & Flossie Schultz
Dick Stanley
Royce & Peggy Ford
James Terrill
Lee & Betty Sue Vincent

The following, although registered for the reunion, had to ultimately cancel for medical reasons and provided their regrets:

Brian & Jean Miller
Bobby & Margarita Smith
Dick Disotell

(Dick's wife, Cindy, passed away Oct 4th, and Dick probably would appreciate a call from friends -- his number is 727-481-7504. Plans are to have a memorial service in the few weeks to follow. The entire Telfair group extends to Dick its sincerest and heartfelt condolences.)

I want to express my thanks to Sarah Green-Hord of Ozarks' Kirkwood Tour & Travel. Acting again as our reunion agent. Sarah did an outstanding job coordinating accommodations and events, as well as helping those who had to cancel. I also need to thank Lee Vincent who was again drafted to be our "reunion chaplain" this year. In keeping with a tradition started last year, Lee also conducted the "missing man table" ceremony at the banquet. Finally, a very special thank you goes to Barbara and Bill Bunger who arrived a day early and sourced all the beverages and snacks that was used in the hospitality room. Bill also assumed chauffeur duty in driving one of the vans we needed for our various tours.

Speaking of tours, we visited the New Mexico Veterans Memorial and Museum and were quite impressed with the grounds, along with the various moving memorials that were exhibited there. We also enjoyed visiting the famous Anderson Abruzzo International Balloon Museum -- who knew there was such a wonderful use for hot air other than in Washington, DC! Finally, due to a last minute cancellation by the Turquoise Museum, we instead were able to visit the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History. We could have spent the entire day exploring all of its interesting exhibits.

Our little group had a wonderful banquet the last night of the reunion. Food was great, and we were fortunate to have a special guest in attendance. Retired Lieutenant Commander Damon Runyan, representing the New Mexico Navy League, gave an informative and enjoyable presentation on local efforts to have a new nuclear submarine named after the State of New Mexico.

Worst of times -- As mentioned above, we had just 22 final attendees, of which only 11 were Telfair veterans. Apparently, a Western location and more than ample advance notice was not enough to spark more interest in attending.

At previous reunions it was discussed that we should perhaps find a Western location for a reunion to attract new attendees, as most recent ones have been out East. A list of possible cities was offered by Sarah, and those roster individuals with email addresses were asked to vote on which city they preferred. Votes were received from only 36 crew members, with Albuquerque winning by a bit more than a narrow margin.

We then immediately tasked Sarah to find us an Albuquerque hotel that met our various requirements (e.g., complementary hospitality, low room rate, complementary breakfast, etc.) for dates in late September/early October. By the end of May, we had finalized the hotel and reunion dates, which information was then emailed to over 160 roster members, along with approximately 150 additional postcards mailed to other roster members who did not have an email address on file. A notice also was sent by email or postcard to the additional 50 people listed in the roster as Telfair "Friends." In total, over 350 individuals were notified of the location and dates well in advance of the reunion. That information was further posted on our website, as well as on two Telfair Facebook pages maintained by others. Finally, reunion information also was provided to various military websites and magazines (e.g., American Legion magazine). After all that effort, only 14 Telfair veterans were able to register, including those who had to cancel.

Having saying all that, I do appreciate that there were many who wished they could have attended, but couldn't for various legitimate reasons. I received a few supporting emails from well-wishers who hoped to attend in future years. I especially want to thank Leland Alexander who was very active calling, sending emails and making Facebook posts trying to get people to attend. He would have attended if not for Nancy's health issues.

Crew's Meeting...

Bill Bunger provided the group with a printed 2018 report on Telfair finances, and that document is enclosed at the end of this report (does not include receipts/expenses associated with the 2018 reunion). Bill and wife Barbara have done an excellent job in organizing our somewhat meager finances and have implemented backup controls to protect it. We will have regular group financial reports in the future.

There were no changes in the Ship's committee. Bill Bunger will continue to handle financial matters and Telfair funds, with Jose Rivera acting as his backup. I will continue to maintain the Telfair website and crew roster, and Henry Garcia will be my backup.

As you might imagine, the bulk of the meeting was spent discussing the viability of having future reunions, especially with the declining attendance over the years and the aging of our shipmates. Several options were discussed, ranging from no more reunions to giving it one more chance to maybe participating with a larger group that was not completely Telfair centric. Given there were only 11 shipmates in attendance, we didn't think we represented a large enough contingent to make any final decision on what should happen next. Instead, it was decided that I would email a separate report on the subject, listing options in more detail, and solicit the feelings of the larger group. I hope to have that done in the coming days after doing a little more research on what our options might be. I appreciate this may continue the suspense for some, but the goal remains to have a final decision made before the end of the year.

Pictures of reunion attendees, tour locations and banquet have been posted to our website and can be seen at <http://www.usstelfair.org/reunion-information.html>. This report is being sent only by email and not mailed, but a copy will be posted on that web page, as well.

Thanks again to all that attended.

Jim Rosenow

Encl: 2018 Financial Report

USS TELFAIR CHECKING ACCOUNT; 2018 UPDATE

Fellow USS Telfair sailors (and family members too), here is information regarding funds in a checking account earmarked for reunions of our grand ol' gal, the USS Telfair, APA 210.

As a review, John Tonyes had not only coordinated our reunions for the past several years but also handled the duties associated with registration, etc. 2017 saw John's health fail and others were called upon to step up and take the reins insuring our reunions continue. Jim Rosenow graciously stepped forward to spearhead the organizational details of getting the annual reunion into place.

Additionally, Bill Bunger volunteered to take over the "duties of the treasurer" and Jose Rivera stepped up to be the assistant treasurer and take over the duties in the event Bill would, for whatever reason, no longer be able to fulfill these duties.

Near the end of 2017 John Tonyes closed the checking account he had and sent Bill a check in the amount of \$805.75. A new checking account was then set up with the funds deposited. Additionally, \$122.25 was also deposited. This amount reflects excess funds left over from the food and beverage "tip Jar" from the 2017 reunion (as well as a MOST GENEROUS TIP from a donor who wishes to remain anonymous)!

On the back you will find a copy of the most recent monthly statement. You will note the balance amount reflects the amounts initially deposited; no checks/withdrawals have occurred to date in 2018.

Bill Bunger,
Treasurer, USS Telfair, APA 210



CenterState Bank
 Avon Park Office
 400 US Hwy 27 South,
 Avon Park, FL 33825
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 24 Hour Inquiry: (888)292-7005
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USS TELFAIR REUNION COMMUNITY
 1718 W ORANGEWOOD PL
 AVON PARK FL 33825-7898

Statement Date 07/31/2018

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SMALL BUSINESS CHECKING	ACCOUNT NO.	****9305
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Summary of Activity Since Your Last Statement

Balance Forward From 07/01/2018	928.00
0 Deposits/Credits00 +
0 Withdrawals/Debits00 -
Ending Balance As Of 07/31/2018	928.00
Service Charge00

